

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claims 1-10 are rejected.

Rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kou et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0078293A1, hereafter referred to as 'Kou'). Applicant disagrees with this ground of rejection.

Claim 1 relates to a method for automatically setting up data connections between a data source appliance and a recording appliance in a network of distributed stations. The network of distributed stations comprises at least a data source appliance, a data sink appliance and a recording appliance.

In particular claim 1 concerns a method comprising 3 main steps:

- user-activated selection of a user interface for the recording appliance;
- Checking for the existing data connections which have been set up for the data sink or the user interface.
- Set-up of a connection between the data source for which a connection to the data sinks appliance or the user-interface appliance has been set up and the recording appliance.

Kou relates to a method for controlling devices in a Home network. Kou discloses a network of distributed stations comprising a data source appliance (212), a data sink appliance (216) and a recording appliance (VCR). Kou does not however perform the claimed step of "checking for the existing data connections which have been set for a data sink appliance or the user interface appliance in the network".

Kou does not disclose a check for the existing data connections which have been set up for the data sink or the user-interface. Step 510 shown on fig. 5 of Kou in connection with fig.4A is representative of a search of various target devices (sink or source) which consists in a scroll "through possible connections" ... cf. [0067].

The claimed check step of Claim 1 differs in two aspects from step 510:

- First, it concerns "existing connections". See wording of claim 1 and p. 15 of the specification: "Furthermore, the response contains all existing data connections in the network." The Second step of claimed method clearly differs from what is described in Kou [0068] "possible connections" which means "potential" or "future"

connections. That is, Kou has not identified particular connections that exist; rather the invention provides a system where a user can set up a connection from a possible connection.

- Secondly, it is an automatic step of Claim 1, performed without any intervention of a user. See p.14-15 of specification "When the user interface for the digital video recorder 12 has been selected, the user interface program 52 sends a request to the local "Stream Manager" 48 in the digital TV set 10 via the local data connections which have been set up to the digital TV set 10, see step ①. In this regard, the "Stream Manager" 48 provides the service StreamManager::GetGlobalConnectionMap. The response is obtained by the user interface program 52 in step ②.""The user interface program checks whether there is a data connection to the digital TV set 10. If this is the case, an order is sent to the "Stream Manager" 48 in the digital TV set 10 in step ③ under the control of the user interface program 52. This is possibly done using the "Messaging System" 43 in the digital TV set. This order indicates that a new data connection needs to be set up between the set-top box 11 and the digital video recorder 12. To this end, the Stream Manager Service StreamManager::FlowTo is called up, which can be used to set up a point-to-point connection between two FCMs. The Stream Manager 48 sets up the connection to the "Tuner-FCM" 56 in the set-top box 11 and VCR-FCM 57 in the digital video recorder." The Second step of claimed method differs from what is described at the end of Kou [0068] "*in response to input from the user*".

In view of what we describe above for step 510, Kou is about having a user having to specify from possible devices a particular connection to be associated with such devices. Such a set up operation is different than the present invention which checks to see if connections are already established.

Kou does not disclose a set-up of a connection between the data source for which a connection to the data sink appliance or the user interface appliance has been set up and the recording appliance:

- step 520 shown on fig. 5 in connection with fig.4A is representative of a selection of input and outputs of target devices by a output-select-button 452 (cf. [0069]) by the user. This selection is performed manually (cf. [0057] "The user then selects one of the devices, ..., using output-select-button 452")
- the same for step 530 (see [0059]and [0070])

The considerations between the present invention of Claim 1 and the requirement for a user to determine if a connection can be set up and for the user to actually set it up is that Claim 1 addresses having an operation of, "assist[ing] in the implementation of an instant-recording function on the recording appliance." Claim 1 is about one quickly making use of pre-existing connections between a recording appliance, data source appliance, and data sink appliance to

facilitate a "instant-recording" function. Kou would not be able to assist with these functions in that one would have to specify whether a "potential" connection can actually be a real-connection. Kou would have difficultly implementing such an "instant record" feature, unlike the present invention.

For the reasons given above for Claim 1 is patentable. Likewise, Claim 6 is patentable for the same reasons given for Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-5 and Claims 7-10 are patentable as such claims depend on Claims 1 and 6, respectively.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
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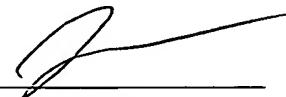
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